

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 14684 142026Z

73

ACTION EA-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14684

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, AUGUST 13, (6973

AND OVERVIEW, AUGUST 5-11, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP THAI
AUG 13 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE DANANG 1014

1. SECURITY SITUATION

A. AUGUST 11 - I CORPS HEADQUARTERS BRIEFING: EIGHTEEN CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED CONSISTING OF THREE GROUND ATTACKS, THIRTEEN ATTACKS BY FIRE, AND TWO HARASSMENTS. GVN CASUALTIES: TWENTY-TWO KIA AND 39 WIA. PRG/NVA CASUALTIES: TWENTY-THREE KIA, FORTY-FOUR ROUNDS OF FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS; SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO FIRED SOUTH.

B. AUGUST 12 - SEVEN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED CONSISTING OF SIX ATTACKS BY FIRE AND ONE HARASSMENT. GVN CASUALTIES: FIVE KIA AND TWENTY-FIVE WIA. PRG/NVA CASUALTIES: FOUR KIA. SIXTY TWO ROUNDS OF FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED NORTH
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 14684 142026Z

OF THE HAI VAN PASS AND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR FIRED SOUTH.

C. AUGUST 13 - THIRTEEN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED CONSISTING OF ELEVEN ATTACKS BY FIRE AND TWO HARAWIMENTS. GVN CASUALTIES: ONE KIA. NO FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS; FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY TWO ROUNDS FIRED SOUTH.

2. TRANSPORT COMPANY COMPLAINTS

IN COMMENTING ON RUMORS OF A POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATION BY VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE TRANSPORT INDUSTRY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DANANG CVT TOLD CONGEN OFFICER THAT COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT FIRMS WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY DISENCHANTED WITH UNCHECKED RISING COSTS. THE PRIMARY OBJECTION WAS TO THE HIGH VEHICLE TAX WHICH WAS REPORTED TO HAVE INCREASED 300 PERCENT ON TIRES AND 200 PERCENT ON FUEL (UNCONFIRMED). GENERALLY HIGH OPERATING COSTS AND DECLINING PROFIT MARGINS WERE ALSO CITED. MEETINGS WERE RECENTLY HELD BOTH IN DANANG AND DUE TO DETERMINE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY IN WHICH TO MANIFEST THEIR DISSATISFACTION.

ALTHOUGH NONE HAVE OCCURRED YET, LARGE-SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE APPARENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION AND THE CVT CHAIRMAN EMPHASIZE THEY WOULD BE "VERY LARGE."

3. ICCS ACTIVITIES

THE TWO MEMBERS OF THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION OF THE ICCS AT CHU LAI WERE IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE ON AUGUST 9. THEY VISITED THE HOANG OANH OP (WHICH HAD ALMOST BEEN OVERRUN ON AUGUST 5) ACCOMPANIED BY REPORTERS FROM THE VIETNAMESE PRESS. THEY ALSO WITNESSED A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST VC CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, WHICH WAS HELD IN QUANG NGAI CITY ON THE SAME DAY. THIS DEMONSTRATION OF ABOUT 1,000 PERSONS WAS ALLEGEDLY ORGANIZED BY THE RDC AND INCLUDED DELEGATIONS FROM THE DISTRICTS OF SON TINH, TU NGHIA AND QUACG NGAI CITY. THE EVENT WAS ALSO COVERED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VN PRESS, WHO HAD ARRIVED IN QUANG NGAI CITY ON AUGUST 8 AT THE INVITATION OF LTG TRUONG, CG MR-1 TO "GET THE INSIDE STORY" ON THE INCREASE IN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS IN QUANG NGAI.

4. OVERVIEW CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 SAIGON 14684 142026Z

A. THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED IN I CORPS DURING THE PAST WEEK. CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS REPORTED AT I CORPS HEAD-QUARTERS AVERAGED TWENTY PER DAY, THE HIGHEST SINCE THE SECOND CEASEFIRE WENT INTO EFFECT. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SOME VIOLATIONS NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS (OF PARTICULAR NOTE WAS THE ATTACK ON AUGUST 9 ON AN AFB AT YD627238 IN WHICH 10 ARVN WERE KILLED AND 9 WOUNDED) MOST OF THE ACTIVITY AGAIN TOOK

PLACE IN QUANG NGAI.

AS GVN COMMANDERS CONTINUE TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE VC IN THE LOWLANDS OF SOUTHERN MR I, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN STEPPING UP THEIR RESISTANCE (REFTELS DANANG 962, 988). FROM THE GVN SIDE THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE COMMUNIST BUILDUP OF ROADS, SMALL DEPOT COMMUNITIES, FARMING AREAS AND MEDICAL UNITS IN "THE OTHER MR I" IS FRIGHTENING, IN PART BECAUSE IT IS BEYOND THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT REACH. THE LEOPARD SPOTS OF COMMUNIST PREDOMINANCE IN THE LOWLANDS, WHICH WITH THIS WESTERN INFRASTRUCTURE WOULD EVENTUALLY LINK UP, ARE NOT BEYOND REACH, HOWEVER. THROUGH THE SYSTEMATIC ELIMINATION OF THE ENEMY FROM HIS "LEOPARD SPOT" LOWLAND SANCTUARIES, THE GVN APPARENTLY HOPES THAT "THE OTHER MR I" CAN THEN BE COMPLETELY BOTTLED UP IN THE MOUNTAINS EFFECTIVELY APART FROM THE VIETNAMESE POPULATION. FROM THE COMMUNIST SIDE SUCH A THREAT IS FUNDAMENTAL AND THEY HAVE OPPOSED IT BY INTENSIFYING THE FIGHTING AGAINST GVN CLEARING UNITS. THE WEEK'S ACCELERATED MILITARY TEMPO HAS FOLLOWED THE PATTERN OF THE PREVIOUS TWO WEEKS, PARTICULARLY IN QUANG NGAI WHERE SEVERAL OF THE COMMUNISTS' MOST PROMISING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE LOWLANDS ARE THREATENED WITH BEING SNUFFED OUT.

B. THE POLOFF IN QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT THE INCREASE IN ACTIVITY HAS OCCURRED ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA WEST OF THE SON TINH DISTRICT HDQTRS. ON AUGUST 5 THE ENEMY ATTACKED AND ALMOST OVERRAN AN OUTPOST AT BS642815. EVELYN VC WERE KILLED AND SEVERAL WEAPONS CAPTURED BUT THE RF HAD 11 KIA, 15 WIA AND ALSO LOST WEAPONS AND SUPPLIES. ON AUGUST 6 THE ENEMY MORTARED AND OVERRAN AN RF OUTPOST WEST OF SONG HA DISTRICT HDQTRS, KILLING SEVEN AND WOUNDING THREE, WITH SIX MIA. TO BEEF UP FRIENDLY FORCES IN WESTERN SON TINH DISTRICT THE 60TH RANGER BATTALION WAS MOVED THERE TO ASSIST THE 39TH RANGER BATTALION AND THE THIRD BATTALION OF THE 6TH REGIMENT WHICH ARE STATIONED THERE.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 14684 142026Z

C. THE QUANG NGAI POLOFF FURTHER REPORTS THAT THE PRG ROUNDED UP 300 PERSONS FROM DUC VINH, DUC SON AND DUC THACH VILLAGES LIVING IN THE MO DUC REFUGEE CAMP AND TOOK THEM TO A NEARBY HAMLET WHERE THEY WERE TOLD ABOUT THE VC RTV PROGRAM. THE PRG ALSO ENTERED CHAU ME HAMLET, AN RTV SITE JUST SOUTH OF THE MO DUC DISTRICT HDQTRS AND DESTROYED EIGHT HOUSE FRAMES AND WARNED THE PEOPLE NOT TO RETURN THERE. SIGNED POPPLE UNQUOTE
MARTIN

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